



Thames Valley LDWA

Committee Report for Annual General Meeting 23rd January 2022

Chairman's Report

Perhaps unsurprisingly we have been rather slow returning to normal as the pandemic has waned and waxed. In particular our leaders (including myself) seem reluctant to commit themselves as long in advance as previously, meaning that we have had to suspend, I hope temporarily, walks listings in *Strider*. However, I am very grateful to those who have stepped in at short notice to give us a fairly full programme.

Our new Secretary and Treasurer have both taken over flawlessly, with help and advice from their predecessors when required. My own role, as Chairman has remained minimal. During the year we co-opted Alison Attard as an additional member of the committee.

Many of you will remember Steve Singleton, a well respected leader and member of the group who died suddenly at the end of 2012. Unexpectedly this year we received a legacy from his mother's will. It seemed appropriate to use this money to donate a gate in Steve's memory, which has now been installed by the Chiltern Society where a path from Watlington meets the Ridgeway near Dame Alice Farm. Nice as it would be to commemorate other former members in this way, that could quickly become unaffordable; this gate was only possible because of Mrs. Singleton's bequest and is not to be regarded as a precedent.

My thanks, as always, to the committee, to our leaders, and to those who volunteer as marshals for the Oxon 40/20 which, Covid permitting, will be returning as a physical event in 2022 after a successful virtual event in 2021.

John Esslemont

Secretary's Report

I took over as Secretary at the online AGM in January 2021 and of course there was little to do for a few months. As we came off lockdown, I soon learnt this job was a bit of a mish-mash with tasks ranging from monitoring the Covid restrictions, organising and minuting committee meetings (my conservatory – with windows open- is now the new venue!), attending the Groups weekend in Yorkshire, organising a few social events when we could and taking over management of the TV LDWA catering inventory from Jan. I am looking for someone else to take over the last of these roles!

Membership (primary members) is more or less identical to this last time last year (434 as opposed to 440), though it fell earlier in the year to rise again lately. As Graham will expand on in his section, participants in walks (what we might term the 'social walk' portion of the membership) has understandably fallen, though numbers notably perked up for the summer picnic, held outdoors of course, at 21 and particularly for the Xmas party at 38. Judging by comments, the Xmas party seems to have been a particular success. My thanks to everyone who contributed to this success, particularly Trish Jacobs. The message seems to be that members like a walk and a bit of socialising and/or food, so we will see what more we can do on this in 2022, when of course it is allowed.

It was apparent at the November Groups weekend that we are one of the strongest LDWA groups, with others amazed at the number of walks we organise. As the only group doing A and B walks on a regular basis, I think we can claim to be catering for a range of abilities (though some groups are ONLY doing what we would call B walks). There is a big push on for the LDWA to acquire a new generation of members and to be accommodating to those coming for a trial walk or who are not yet ready to do 20 miles at 3mph pace, also to make sure that we are welcoming to these new members and make sure they don't end up walking alone. One of the initiatives suggested was an informal buddy system to keep an eye on new members and we would also like some volunteers to come forward on this.

Duncan Macgregor

Treasurer's Report

This is my first-year reporting on the financial position of the Thames Valley LDWA group as I took over as Treasurer at the AGM in January 2021 after rejoining the Thames Valley LDWA group in 2020.

In summary the total cash balance increased by £1,545.96 year on year, which, following a significant reduction last year, puts the year-end balance back in line with pre Covid levels.

The main reason for the increase year on year is the refunds for costs incurred in the 2019/20 year in relation to the May 2021 Oxon 40/20 that was subsequently cancelled and moved to an 'anytime' event.

Excluding the refunds, the level of income & expenditure was significantly lower than normal due to the impact of Covid on activities with the Oxon 40/20 being an 'anytime' event rather than in person, no Christmas lunch or other social activities and meetings being online (or in Duncan's Conservatory).

The main source of income of the group is the Oxon 40/20, so hopefully we can see this take place in 2022. Some deposits have been made towards this event and are therefore included in the cashflow expenditure reported for 2020/21.

A stock take of badges & mugs was completed and this has been included in the report. The overall Group financial position is good and means that we have reserves in place to ensure we are financially stable and also to enable us to subsidise social events.

I would like to thank Lynda Ledger for her independent review of the accounts and Mike Evans for the time he took to handover the Treasurer role.

Sarah Easingwood-Wilson

Note: The accounts, as approved by the independent examiner, appear on the next page. The copy signed by the treasurer and independent examiner can be made available for inspection on request.

Cashbook: 1.11.2020 - 31.10.2021

LDWA Thames Valley

Summary	31.10.19	31.10.20	31.10.21	Stock / Assets		
Stock Value	£171.50	£171.50	£158.08	Mugs	36 @ £1.494	£53.78
Reserve Account Balance	£2,426.22	£2,429.96	£2,430.20	40/20 Badges	70 @ £1.49	£104.30
Current Account Balance	£4,487.95	£2,756.07	£4,315.21			
Cash in Hand	-	-	-			
Total	£7,085.67	£5,357.53	£6,903.49			£158.08
Increase / (Decrease)	£678.54	(£1,728.14)	£1,545.96			

Movement for the Year

Income	£2,468.14
Expenditure	(£909.00)
Add reserve interest	£0.24
Less stock reduction	(£13.42)
Total	£1,545.96

2020/21 Income & Expenditure

		Income	Costs	Total
Oxon 40/20: 2020	Refunds relating to cancelled 2020 event	£1,549.50	-	£1,549.50
Oxon 40/20: 2021	2021 Virtual event	£408.64	-	£408.64
Oxon 40/20: 2022	Hall deposits	-	£280.00	(£280.00)
Bequest	Purchase of a gate from bequest	£500.00	£500.00	-
Gifts	-	-	£50.00	(£50.00)
National meeting	-	-	£45.00	(£45.00)
Committee expenses	-	-	£34.00	(£34.00)
Christmas Lunch 2021	-	£10.00	-	£10.00
Total		£2,468.14	£909.00	£1,559.14

(1)

(1) The cashflow excludes £47.95 relating to the 2021 Summer picnic lunch which debited the bank account post year end and will therefore be included in the 2021/22 cashflow.

Walks Co-ordinator's Report

Since social walks resumed in April 2021 we have been offering two walks on most Sundays, and Wednesday walks have at last resumed. This has been possible only because a core of leaders has been leading most of the walks, so please consider leading a walk, since we can't rely on their good nature forever. I'm sure one of our experienced leaders would give help and advice if required.

There is no walks programme in *Strider* for January-April 2022, so you'll need to continue to monitor the website as you have been doing. Although I asked for volunteers to lead in the May-August 2022 program, for inclusion in the next magazine, the limited response so far means this will not be worthwhile.

We are liaising with the Wiltshire group to offer joint walks if the location is convenient for both groups. These will be publicised and highlighted in both our programmes.

I continue to add GPX files to the LDWA Walks Database for many of the Thames Valley walks. Remember that articles and/or photos associated with a walk can also be added, so if anyone would like to contribute please let me know.

GPX files are still being created for past Oxon 40/20 routes which do not already have one. This page on the website appears to have been used substantially during the pandemic. If you walk one and create a GPX file please send it to me.

Graham Croucher

Oxon 40/20 Co-ordinator's Report

The 2021 Oxon 40/20 was again affected by the Covid pandemic. As we were unable to run a full event we offered an anytime event. Duncan modified his route from the cancelled 2020 event to remove checkpoints, and the event was made available on SiEntries for £5 with optional printed certificate for £2. Additionally Oxon 40/20 badges could be purchased for £2.50. All entrants who reported completion were given an electronic certificate.

92 people entered, 57 on the 20 route and 35 the 40/32. 13 printed certificates and 8 badges were ordered. We received the following number of completions: 41 x 20 miles, 7 x 32 miles and 14 x 40 miles. Relative to other local anytime events, the Oxon 40/20 was well subscribed and received good feedback from entrants.

Looking forward to the Oxon 40/20 in 2022, it is planned to return as a normal/marshalled event on 30th April 2022; as usual there is a new route. There will be some changes this year, both in response to the Covid pandemic and to attempt to simplify the organisation. The entry numbers are reduced from 350 to 200 and a smaller range of food will be offered. The start of entries has moved from its traditional 1st December, to 1st February. If you would like to volunteer to help marshal this event please email tv.oxon4020@ldwa.org.uk.

With your help we will have another successful Oxon 40/20 on 30th April.

Huw Davies

Merchandising Officer's Report

Not much has happened with respect to "merchandise" this year other than that I now hold the stock of mugs. It has been decided that, with a slimmed down Oxon 40/20, marshal t-shirts and aprons are not in the budget for 2022.

So I don't plan to stand for re-election as "merchandising" officer as the reason I took on the "merchandising" role was to source items for the Oxon40/20 marshals.

Andrew Beck